reactors progressing as per schedule, there is no time and cost over-run in the completion of the ongoing projects.

(c) and (d) The indigenous uranium available in the country can support a capacity of 10,000 MWe. However, with the closed fuel cycle approach needing reprocessing of spent fuel which India has adopted, the potential of electricity generation is enhanced many times. The first of its kind reactor using fuel recovered after reprocessing of spent fuel is under construction at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu.

Nuclear Power Target by 2020

407. SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the target set for Nuclear Power Production by year 2020;

(b) what would be the investment required to achieve this target;

(c) whether it is a fact that per unit cost of production of the nuclear energy is still higher in the country as compared to thermal and Hydro Power;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is also a fact that the nuclear power plants are working at less than installed capacity;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) what steps are being taken to reduce the per unit cost of production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The existing installed nuclear power capacity of 3360 MWe will increase to 7280 MWe by March 2011 with the progressive completion of projects under construction. The target is to reach a total nuclear power capacity of 20,000 MWe by the year 2020.

(b) The estimated investment, at 2005 prices, is about Rs. 5.2 crore per MWe. This is proposed to be met through a combination of Domestic Budgetary Support, Foreign credit, market borrowing and surpluses generated by nuclear power generation.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The cost of production of unclear power is comparable to thermal generation away from coalmines. The hydropower in the country is location specific and mostly for peak load needs.

(e) and (f) Nuclear power reactors are being operated at high availability factors as to yield about normative capacity factor.

(g) Reducing the input costs, adopting depreciation rates consistent with expected life of the plants, discontinuation of Renovation and Modernisation and Research and Development levies and pre payment of high interest bearing loans have resulted in reduction of the cost of production of nuclear power. The average generation traiff has come down from 255 paise/kWh in the year 2003-04 to 226 palse/kWh in the year 2004-05.

Outcome of the Meeting of I.A.E.A.

408. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that allowing inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will seriously compromise the quantity and scope of ongoing research;

(b) if so, whether Government have put forward this point during the recently held meeting of IAEA; and

(c) if so, the response received in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. No IAEA inspections are being carried out in any of the R&D institutions in India.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Russian Uranium for Tarapur Plant

409. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia has agreed to supply low enriched uranium for the atomic power plant at Tarapur; and

(b) if so, by when are they likely to do so?